

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for determining the location of an item, from among a plurality of like items, said apparatus comprising, in combination:
 - (a) a paging device adapted to be located on or near said item, said paging device having a unique paging device identification code and including:
 - (1) an RF receiver for receiving and detecting RF transmissions from a commercial paging service, said RF transmissions including a paging device identification code for a particular paging device and a paging message associated therewith;
 - (2) a comparator, connected to said RF receiver, for determining when the paging device identification code received from the commercial paging service equals the paging device identification code for the respective paging device;
 - (3) a decoder, connected to the RF receiver and the comparator, for decoding the paging message when enabled by said comparator, one of said paging messages including a command to emit a locator signal;

- (b) a locator transmitter, adapted to be co-located with said item and said paging device and being connected to said paging device, said locator transmitter producing a locator signal in response to a command from said paging device; and
- (c) a locator device, within range to receive said locator signal, for determining the location of said locator transmitter;
- (d) a transponder tag, adapted to be co-located on or near said item with said paging device, said tag having means for emitting an RF signal in response to an RF interrogation, said RF signal containing a unique tag identification code;
- (e) a transponder reader for producing an RF interrogation for a transponder tag, for receiving an RF signal from a tag in response to such interrogation and for decoding the tag identification code from said RF signal; and
- (f) a computer coupled to the transponder reader and having stored therein, in association with each other, both the paging device identification code and the tag identification code.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus defined in claim 1, wherein the transponder tag utilizes energy from said RF interrogation to transmit said RF signal, whereby said transponder tag requires no other power source.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus defined in claim 1, wherein one of said paging messages includes a command to switch off the co-located tag, and wherein

said apparatus further comprises a tag control device, connected to said paging device and to said tag, for preventing said tag from responding to an RF interrogation when said switch off command is received by said paging device.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus defined in claim 1, further comprising a CPU, coupled to said transponder reader, for initiating a page by said commercial paging system.

6. (Original) The apparatus defined in claim 1, wherein said locator transmitter produces, and said locator device receives, a RF locator signal.

7. (Original) The apparatus defined in claim 1, wherein said locator transmitter produces, and said locator device receives, an infrared locator signal.

8. (Original) The apparatus defined in claim 6, wherein said locator transmitter produces, and said locator device receives, an ultrasound locator signal.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for locating a tagged item, comprising:
a paging device attached or in close proximity to an item to be located, said paging device identified by a paging device address and having an RF receiver configured to receive paging signals from a paging system;
a transponder tag containing a unique code identifying said item, said transponder tag attached or in close proximity to said item; and

a transponder tag reader operable to receive an RF signal from said transponder tag and extract a tag identification code contained in said RF signal; and
a computer configured to store said paging device address and said tag identification code.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 9, further comprising a server configured to receive information signals from said transponder reader and communicate information concerning the item or transponder tag to said paging system.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 9, further comprising a controller configured to receive a command signal from said paging device.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11 wherein said command signal contains a command to deactivate said transponder tag.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 9[[,]] wherein said paging device further comprising includes a short-range transmit module configured to transmit a short-range location signal to a location receiver module having one or more receivers operable to determine the location of said paging device.

14. (New) A system for determining the location of an item, comprising:

a plurality of pagers associated with a plurality of items, each pager having a long range radio frequency communications module configured to communicate with a pager communications network, and a short range transmit module;

a plurality of dispersed short range receiver modules configured to receive a location signal from the short range transmit module of one of said plurality of pagers;

a plurality of transponder tags co-located and associated with said plurality of pagers; and

a transponder tag reader configured to interrogate one or more of said plurality of transponder tags and receive interrogation response signals interrogation response signals from the interrogated transponder tags.

15. (New) The system of Claim 14 wherein each of said plurality of pagers further includes a controller configured to receive a command signal from said pager communications network.

16. (New) The system of Claim 15 the command signal causes a controller of at least one pager to generate a control signal that controls a power level of said at least one pager.

17. (New) The system of Claim 15 wherein the command signal causes a controller of at least one pager to generate a control signal that activates a visible or audible indicator of said at least one pager.

18. (New) The system of Claim 15 wherein the command signal causes a controller of at least one pager to deactivate the at least one pager's associated transponder tag.

19. (New) The system of Claim 15 wherein a controller of at least one pager controls a tag control device employed to determine whether a battery of said at least one pager is discharged.

20. (New) The system of Claim 14 wherein the location of the item is determined by triangulation, based on the relative amplitude, differential time, or differential phase of said location signal received by said plurality of dispersed short range receiver modules.